REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-74 are pending in the present application; Claim 1 having been canceled and Claims 17-74 having been added by way of the present Amendment.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present Amendment, an action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEWSTADT, R.

Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599

James J. Kulbaski Attorney of Record Registration No. 34,648



22850

Phone: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413-2220

JJK:rem

I:\atty\JJK\0557\214675US\Preliminary Amendment.10Jan02.doc

Marked Up Copy

Serial No.: 09/970,647

Amendment Filed on: January 11, 2002

Claim 1 is canceled.

Claims 17-74 are new.